

FTR

February 21, 2011

Testimony on Raised Bill 6306' AAC the listing of advanced practice registered nurses in managed care organization provider listings, and primary care provider designations

Honored Chairs and Committee Members:

My name is Lynn Price. I am a family nurse practitioner, and I urge you to pass this bill. Over the past several years, the Institute of Medicine has called attention to the alarming shortage of primary care providers, a phenomenon which is unfortunately occurring in Connecticut as well. This shortage raises serious concerns for access to primary care for existing patients, a concern which only mounts alarmingly when we consider the large numbers of patients contemplated for basic health coverage under federal and state insurance reform efforts. Raised bill 6306 provides a simple but fundamental step in addressing concerns about shortages of primary care providers and the corresponding chokehold on increased access to care.

Meaningful access to care requires that patients know how and where to find primary care providers. This bill says that advanced practice registered nurses will be listed in member materials as available providers, allowing patients to find these providers. Second, in circumstances where a patient must designate a primary care provider, an advanced practice registered nurse could be so named. Both of these provisions substantially contribute to the availability of advanced practice registered nurses to serve as much-needed primary care providers.

Please support this bill. Thank you for your time.

Lynn Price, JD, MSN, MPH